6

NATSUMI ANDO

Something's Wrong With Us

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STORY & CHARACTERS

Desperate to investigate the truth about her late mother, Nao hides who she really is and marries Tsubaki. Despite the proprietress's vengefulness and the old master's verbal abuse, the two gradually grow closer after working together to get through an important tea ceremony…

Nao tries to recreate Shimaya's lost *warabi mochi* in an attempt to help Jojima. Meanwhile, Jojima is furious to find Tsubaki meddling in his affairs, and Nao is seen with some telling symptoms as the department store event draws near.

Tsubaki Takatsuki

The heir to the historic *wagashi* shop Kogetsuan. Proposed to Nao without realizing that she is his childhood friend.

Nao Hanaoka

A *wagashi* confectioner. Finds meaning in life by making *wagashi* that connects her to her late mother.

Tsubaki used to call her "Sakura" back when they were children. Seeing the color red gives her severe heart palpitations.

The Proprietress

Tsubaki's mother. She lost her husband (Tsubaki's father) 15 years ago, and has been desperate to make Tsubaki the head of Kogetsuan ever since.

Yusuke Jojima

An employee at Kogetsuan. His family ran a *wagashi* shop called Shimaya in Noto.

NAO...

ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH TSUBAKI?

...

YEAH.

...

I SEE.

I SUDDENLY REMEMBERED...

...HOW UNEASY MOMMA LOOKED FOR A SPLIT SECOND...

...WHEN I TOLD HER THAT.

CHAPTER 26
Resolve

DO YOU HAVE A BABY ON THE WAY?

NO, NO, MATSUBARA-SAN.

Ha ha!

IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT!

I'VE JUST BEEN TIRED RECENTLY...

N—

OH, DEAR.

I HOPE YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

AN OLDER COWORKER IS PREGNANT NOW, AND YOUR SYMPTOMS SEEMED SO SIMILAR.

COME TO THINK OF IT...

...ISN'T MY PERIOD LATE?

BUT IT'S ALWAYS BEEN IRREGULAR...

I COULDN'T BE—

BUT...

...WHAT IF I REALLY AM?

IF I AM...

...HOW WILL TSUBAKI REACT...?

THE WEATHER'S BEEN GETTING COOLER.

WANT TO WALK THE LONG WAY HOME?

HUH?

OH, SURE.

I'M SCARED.

I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE IT...

...AND I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO RESIST TSUBAKI.

I EVEN...

LET MYSELF GET HURT OVER THINGS HE SAID...

BUT I STILL HAVEN'T UNCOV-ERED THE TRUTH...

WHAT...

...AM I DOING?

I HAD RESOLVE WHEN I TOLD MY LIE.

HONK
HOONK

YEAH... THAT REALLY UPSET ME.

BUT WHY DID TSUBAKI'S WORDS HURT ME SO MUCH?

DON'T BE RIDIC-ULOUS.

IN THE END...

...I'M STILL THE SAME KID INSIDE.

...OR SWAY MY EMOTIONS.

ONE SIMPLE MOTION OF HIS CAN MAKE MY HEART POUND FASTER...

...AND A SIMPLE WORD CAN UPLIFT MY SPIRITS...

...I'M STILL THE SAME OLD ME.

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I WRITE HIM OFF...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY TO HATE HIM...

I AM SO HOPELESSLY...

...IN LOVE WITH HIM...

WHAT DO I DO?

BUT THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME I FELT NAUSEOUS.

SHOULD I GET TESTED PROPERLY?

BESIDES, RIGHT NOW...

CLICK

...I HAVE TO GET THIS WARABI MOCHI RIGHT.

...WH—

WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?!

THIS PROCE-DURE IS SO CRUCIAL—

WE'RE ENTERING *KOGETSUAN'S* SWEETS AT THE TANABATA EVENT.

WHY WOULD WE EVER USE ANYTHING *YOU* MAKE?

WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING?

THUNK
THUNK
...
THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS WOMAN WOULD NEVER ALLOW IT.
STOP WASTING YOUR TIME.
NO. I'M GOING TO MAKE THIS.
STOP IT RIGHT NOW.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?
...!
WHY, YOU—!

IS THAT A PROBLEM?

AND ONLY BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD PROFIT KOGETSUAN.

I'M THE ONE WHO DECIDED...

...TO USE NAO'S *WARABI MOCHI*.

ACTUALLY, I DON'T THINK...

...THIS *WARABI MOCHI* WAS GOING TO BE ANY GOOD, ANYWAY.

...

WHAT ...?

IT'S STIFF FROM OVER-WORKING.

N... NO.

I'M ALMOST THERE.

SORRY.

I'LL FOCUS AND GET IT RIGHT.

IS THIS HOW...

...IT'S SUP-POSED TO BE?

...

THIS IS NO GOOD.

I'M SORRY...

HOW COULD I WASTE INGREDIENTS LIKE THIS?

ESPECIALLY WHEN WARABI POWDER IS SCARCE IN THE SUMMER.

PREGNANCY TEST

RESULT IN 1 MIN

EASY SELF-TEST

IF I'M SURE THAT I'M WRONG...

...I WON'T KEEP LOSING FOCUS.

I'M GOING TO TAKE A PROPER TEST.

PHARMACY

RESULT

THUNK

THUNK

THUNK

THUNK

THERE YOU ARE.

...!

...

Bill: 10,000 yen, about 100 USD

I HAVE...

...ANOTHER FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.

JOJIMA-KUN.

WILL THIS COVER...

YOUR MOTHER'S HOSPITAL BILL FOR NOW?

THE DAY BEFORE...

THE EVENT.

トロ
STRETCH

THIS IS IT.

THE TASTE I REMEMBER FROM THREE YEARS AGO.

IT'S SO FLUID, LIKE EATING WATER.

IT MELTS ON THE TONGUE...

...IT HAS A DEFINITE FLAVOR AND TEXTURE...

...BUT...

YEAH.

I HAVE TO FOCUS ON THIS NOW.

BECAUSE I SWORE I'D RECREATE IT.

SO YOU'RE OVER WHAT-EVER IT WAS?

WHEN I'M WORKING IT, THERE'S THIS MOMENT WHEN IT SUDDENLY ***FEELS*** DIFFERENT.

I THINK THAT MOMENT IS THE ***KEY*** TO THIS *WARABI MOCHI!*

FOR NOW...

YES.

WE DO NEED TO HAVE A PROPER TALK.

ONCE THE TANABATA FESTIVAL IS OVER...

...I'M HOPING TO HAVE A TALK WITH YOU.

ONCE THE TANABATA FESTIVAL IS OVER...

WE JUST HAVE TO TAKE THESE IN TOMOR-ROW?

THAT'S RIGHT, THANK YOU.

RIGHT NOW...

...I HAVE TO GET AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TO EAT THIS WARABI MOCHI.

THAT'S ALL...

...I CAN DO FOR NOW...

Sign: Kogetsuan

...

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN ...?

GO GET TSUBAKI-SAN!

R-RIGHT!

I HAVE SOME TANABATA FESTIVAL SWEETS READY.

TOMIOKA-SAN MADE SOME, TOO, UNDER THE KOGETSUAN NAME.

WE'LL TAKE THESE TO THE EVENT.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

WE DON'T HAVE ANY MORE TIME.

THERE'S NO NEED TO PANIC, EVERYONE.

IT'S A SHAME, NAO-SAN.

YOU CAN'T EVEN LOOK AFTER YOUR OWN SWEETS PROPERLY.

THESE SWEETS, FROM ***KOGETSUAN.***

...

HOW ...?

...WENT AND RUINED WAGASHI TWICE.

IT MAKES ME SO ANGRY.

HOW...

CAN SOMEONE LIKE YOU BE THIS SHOP'S PROPRI-ETRESS?

THIS PERSON...

SHE ...

HOW CAN *YOU* BE TSUBAKI-SAN'S MOTHER?

I'M SORRY YOU WENT AND GOT OTHER SWEETS READY.

BUT THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.

...SO ANGRY.

"BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND MAKE IT COME TRUE."

WE'RE GOING TO ENTER THE *WARABI MOCHI* I MADE.

Something's Wrong With Us

CHAPTER 27 *Warabi Mochi* Reimagined

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE EVENT

I CAN'T...

I JUST CAN'T...

CLAK カッ…!

...

I still WISH

JOJIMA-KUN?

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

SIGH

NAO-SAN.

THE EVENT IS STARTING IN THREE HOURS.

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE MORE IN TIME?

YOU'RE GOING TO ENTER *YOUR WARABI MOCHI*?

WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?

WELL...

NAO-SAN FAILED TO LOOK AFTER THEM.

SHE SHOULD KNOW THAT GETTING THE SWEETS TO THE CUSTOMER IS PART OF THE JOB.

...THE *WARABI MOCHI* FOR THE EVENT...

TSUBAKI-SAN.

JO-
NAMAGASHI
WITH A
BAMBOO
LEAF
MOTIF...

...AND...

...STAR-
SHAPED
MONAKA.

WE CAN
COMPETE
FINE WITH
THESE.

BUT
DON'T
WORRY.

I HAD ASKED
TOMIOKA-SAN
TO MAKE SOME
TANABATA-
THEMED
SWEETS.

I FOUND
THEM READY
AS PROM-
ISED THIS
MORNING.

...

WE HAVE NO CHOICE. WE'LL TAKE WHAT WE HAVE!

R-RIGHT.

WAIT!

WERE YOU THE ONE...

...WHO RUINED THE *WARABI MOCHI*...?

光月

A CERTAIN *SOMEONE* COULDN'T DO HIS JOB...

...SO I HAD TO TAKE ON THE EXTRA HASSLE.

THE EVENT...

AREN'T YOU GOING?

I'LL GO ONCE I FINISH CLEANING THIS UP.

I HAVE TO MAKE SURE...

PEOPLE EAT THE *WARABI MOCHI* I MADE.

HAVE THEM EAT IT?

HOW ...?

THERE'S NO TIME TO MAKE MORE, AND THESE ONES ARE COMPLETELY—

THIS...

THIS *WARABI MOCHI*...

OTOWA

TANABATA FAIR ON NOW

TANABATA *WAGASHI* FAIR

MUR MUR

MUR MUR

MUR MUR

YES.

IT'S GOING WELL.

AND IT LOOKS LIKE PEOPLE LISTENED TO THE SUGGESTION TO COME IN *YUKATA*.

AND SO MANY ARE IMAGINATIVE AND EYE-CATCHING...

ALL OF THE SHOPS HAVE SUCH ELABORATE SWEETS.

WHAT OF IT?

WE HAVE A HISTORY OF 400 YEARS.

HOLD YOUR HEADS HIGH.

OH, LOOK!

KO-GETSUAN HAS SWEETS HERE, TOO.

REALLY ?!

THAT'S A *MONA—*

WHAT IS THIS STAR-SHAPED ONE LIKE?

OUR CONFECTIONERS USED ALL THEIR SKILLS TO MAKE THESE SPECIAL SWEETS FOR TODAY.

THEY'RE NEW PRODUCTS FOR THE TANABATA EVENT.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY A SAMPLE?

WOW, CAN WE?

WE'D LOVE TO.

ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?

WHAT ...

I CAME TO HAVE PEOPLE EAT THE *WARABI MOCHI* I MADE...

...MA'AM.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

***WHAT** WARABI MOCHI?*

THESE ARE *MONAKA*, MADE BY TOMIOKA-SAN.

KOGET-SUAN'S SPECIAL—

WHAT ...?

WH...

JOJIMA-KUN.

WARABI MOCHI!!

YOU'RE RIGHT!

IT'S DELICIOUS.

IT'S A DARK ROAST TO GO WITH THAT *WARABI MOCHI*.

PLEASE TRY IT WITH THIS *KINAKO* SPRINKLED ON.

光月

JOJIMA-KUN, CAN YOU HELP ME BOX THEM UP?

SURE.

SO SOFT!

IT'S REALLY GOOD.

CAN I GET THREE, PLEASE?

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THEY ONLY MADE MORE TRADITIONAL SWEETS.

KO-GETSU-AN.

WHAT SHOP?

WARABI MOCHI?

THEY SAY THEY'RE GOOD CHILLED, TOO.

IT'S JUST SOOO CUTE!

I WANT SOME, TOO!

APPAR-ENTLY THEY COME IN A *MONAKA* SHELL,

THAT'S STAR-SHAPED!

OH, SURE.

CAN I TRY A SAMPLE?

I SEE FLOWERS.

DAD...

...BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO SHOW ME SOMETHING.

YOU WERE SO DESPERATE ABOUT NOT LETTING THE SHOP CLOSE DOWN...

ALL AROUND...

JUST WAVES AND WAVES...

...OF FLOWERS.

YOU *KNEW* ABOUT THIS.

NAO-SAN COULDN'T HAVE PREPARED ALL OF THOSE BY HERSELF.

...

ALL I DID WAS OFFER SOME ADVICE.

IT NEEDS AN EXTRA *SOMETHING* TO SELL AT THE EVENT.

THIS SHIMAYA *WARABI MOCHI*...

...AND WELL, THERE'S ANOTHER REASON.

IT LOOKS A BIT PLAIN AS IS...

TOMIOKA-SAN ONLY MADE ***ONE*** TYPE OF *WAGASHI*.

THERE'S A TOXIC BUTTERFLY LURKING IN THIS SHOP.

IF YOU OVERSAW YOUR ORDERS PROPERLY, YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN FOOLED.

THE *MONAKA* SHELLS, ***NAO MADE***... TO PROTECT THE *WARABI MOCHI*.

THEN YOU CARRIED THE REAL ONES TO THE EVENT YOUR-SELF.

YOU'RE THE PROPRIETRESS OF A *WAGASHI* SHOP, AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE?

BUT...

THE *WARABI MOCHI* WERE SCATTERED ALL OVER THE FLOOR...

WE TRICKED YOU WITH THEM BECAUSE WE FIGURED YOU WERE UP TO SOMETHING.

THAT WAS THE OLD, STIFF *WARABI MOCHI* FROM NAO'S FAILED ATTEMPTS.

AND DIDN'T YOU WIN, THANKS TO THAT?

...

THREE YEARS AGO...

YOU REALLY ARE SUCH A SAD PERSON.

...YOU RUINED SHIMAYA'S *WARABI MOCHI*, DIDN'T YOU?

...

CAN YOU?

BUT...

...YOU CAN'T PUSH ME AWAY.

MA'AM!

I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE SHOP.

CAN WE GET YOUR HELP?

YOU SEE, WE HAVE CUSTOMERS WAITING.

WITH YOU...

...EVEN CROSSING THE MILKY WAY SEEMS POSSIBLE.

WHAT?

WELL...

"IT WILL SELL FOR SURE."

JUST LIKE TSUBAKI PREDICTED, THE STAR-SHAPED WARABI MOCHI WERE QUICK TO SELL OUT.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR WORK.

WE ARE SOLD OUT FOR THE DAY.

WHAT SHOULD THE PRODUCT NAME BE?

IT COULD JUST BE "KOGETSUAN *WARABI MOCHI*."

REALLY?!

WE HAVEN'T TALLIED EVERYTHING UP YET,

BUT I'M PRETTY SURE KOGETSUAN'S *WARABI MOCHI* GOT THE MOST VOTES.

PLEASE MAKE IT "SHIMAYA."

UM,
"SHIMA-
YA"?

IT'S THE NAME OF THE SHOP THAT CREATED THAT *WARABI MOCHI.*

CAN WE TALK ABOUT THE SPECIFICS, THEN?

SHIMAYA.

...

NAO-SAN?!

WHAT'S WRONG?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I JUST DROPPED SOME CHANGE.

OH, YEAH.

BUT I'M SO GLAD...

WE USED A STAR-SHAPED SHELL THIS TIME, BUT MAYBE WE CAN CHANGE THE SHAPE OF THE *MONAKA* DEPENDING ON THE SEASON, TOO...

...WE MANAGED TO SELL THE *WARABI MOCHI.*

WHY...?

...

WHY DID YOU DO ALL THIS FOR ME?

BUT...

...THIS PERSON...

I GAVE UP TRYING TO MAKE THEM.

I TOLD MYSELF THAT I TRIED HARD ENOUGH, THAT I GAVE IT MY BEST SHOT.

I MADE EXCUSES FOR MYSELF...

...AND FOCUSED ON HATRED BECAUSE IT WAS EASIER.

THAT MY DAD'S SICK...

I TOLD YOU OUR SHOP'S CLOSED "FOR NOW,"

I...

...LIED...

I GOT SO CAUGHT UP IN IT...

OH MY GOSH...

I MESSED UP SO MUCH *WARABI MOCHI* THAT I FELT LIKE I HAD TO HAVE PEOPLE EAT IT.

LIKE THAT WAS MY DUTY...

OH...

RIGHT...

...I WAS ONLY THINKING ABOUT THE *WARABI MOCHI*...

AND, UH...

SERIOUSLY. I'M SUCH A FOOL, AREN'T I?

HA HA... ARE YOU SERIOUS?

COME ON, WE HAVE TO CLEAN UP.

I THINK I'LL GET SHIMAYA'S *WARABI MOCHI* TODAY.

OF COURSE.

WITH THE TANABATA FAIR OVER...

...WE WERE SUDDENLY BUSY WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE WEDDING.

Sign: Kogetsuan

CHAPTER 28
The Decision

SHIRAFUJIYA, AT YOUR SERVICE.

I'VE COME TO COORDINATE NAO-SAN'S *SHIROMUKU.*

I STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TALK WITH TSUBAKI.

I'M HESITATING, PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M ABOUT TO ABANDON SOMETHING THAT I SHOULDN'T...

NAO-SAN.

PLEASE HOLD STILL.

WE SHOULD RAISE THE HEM A BIT.

THE *KAIKEN*, *SUEHIRO*, AND *HAKOSEKO*... WE HAVE QUITE A VARIETY OF DESIGNS.

SO MANY CHOICES!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR ACCESSO-RIES?

UH...?

HOW ABOUT SOMETHING RED, THEN?

YOU WON'T BE CHANGING FOR THE RECEPTION, WILL YOU?

THERE'S ACTUALLY A TIME-HONORED TRADITION OF INCLUDING RED SOMEWHERE IN THE BRIDAL OUTFIT.

THE COLOR RED SYM-BOLIZES BLOOD,

AND THE IDEA THAT YOU'RE REBORN AS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY YOU'RE MARRYING INTO.

RED...?

...

I WANT EVERY-THING TO BE WHITE.

I... WANT WHITE.

THE MONEY I PAID?

THAT WAS FAIR PAYMENT FOR THE *WARABI MOCHI*.

THERE'S NO NEED.

I PROMISE TO PAY YOU BACK.

PLEASE GIVE ME SOME TIME.

BUT...

...THAT *WARABI MOCHI* BELONGS TO SHIMAYA.

I SWEAR I'LL MASTER IT AND MAKE IT MINE SOME-DAY.

ペコ
BOW

EXCUSE ME.

JOJIMA-KUN?

SOUNDS LIKE HE'LL STAY WORKING HERE FOR A WHILE.

OH, COME ON.

REALLY?!

I SEE...

THAT'S GREAT.

...

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN TOO MUCH.

HUH ...?

NOTHING.

"WE DO NEED TO HAVE A PROPER TALK."

I HAVE TO TALK TO HIM...

...BUT WHEN I TRY, THE WORDS DON'T COME OUT.

...

...!

FOR THE WED-DING ...

ARE YOU ONLY INVITING YOUR MOTHER?

BY THE WAY.

MY MOTHER...?

WHAT ...?

HE MEANS YUKO-SAN.

IT'S OKAY...

IF WE DON'T INVITE HER, EITHER.

OH... UH...

NO.

LIKE THERE'S LEAD STUCK IN MY THROAT...

Dear Nao,

It wasn't me.

"FAR"?

Y-
YEAH.

EVEN
YOUR
MOTHER?

MY MOM HAS
HEALTH ISSUES,
AND I DON'T
WANT HER TO
HAVE TO COME
SO FAR.

THAT'S
ODD,
NAO-
SAN.

*HOW DOES THE
PROPRIETRESS
KNOW THAT...?*

I THOUGHT
YOUR MOTHER
RUNS A PLACE
QUITE CLOSE
IN NAGAMACHI.

OH, YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW?

WHAT'S
THIS?

SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT MY MOM, OKAY?

APPARENTLY SHE CAN'T CLOSE THE PLACE THAT DAY...

A... ACTUALLY, YEAH.

I STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO VISIT YUKO-SAN'S PUB...

I NEED HER TO KEEP PRETENDING TO BE MY MOTHER IF I'M GOING TO KEEP MY IDENTITY A SECRET, BUT...

PUB YUKO
2-OO-XX Nagamachi,
Kanazawa, Ishikawa
Prefecture 920-0865
Tel: (076-OOO-XXXX)

I SUPPOSE THAT'S JUST WHAT IT IS.

EVEN IF NO ONE COMES TO GIVE HER THEIR BLESSING.

NAO.

THE BRIDE'S MOTHER, ABSENT AT THE WEDDING?

OF COURSE ...

THERE'S NO WAY TSUBAKI WOULD APPROVE OF SOMETHING SO DISREPUTABLE.

I'LL MAKE SOME TIME THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

WE'LL FINISH OUR SHOP DUTIES EARLY,

AND GO VISIT YOUR MOTHER.

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.

IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

I JUST HAVE TO PRAY...

CAN YOU GIVE ME HER NUMBER?

I'LL CHECK THE SCHEDULE WITH HER.

...THAT YUKO-SAN WILL STILL PRETEND TO BE MY MOTHER...

Sign: Yuko

THANK YOU FOR MAKING TIME FOR US.

WE BROUGHT A LITTLE GIFT.

I WAS SO SURPRISED.

I NEVER EXPECTED A CALL FROM TSUBAKI-SAN.

HMM.

I LIKE HOW THE BEAN PASTE IS SO SMOOTH.

IT'S *KUZU-ZAKURA.*

I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT REFUSE TO EVEN SEE US...!

...SO THAT'S A RELIEF, AT LEAST.

BUT ANY-WAY,

SORRY WE HAD TO MEET HERE.

YES.

I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD ATTEND.

SO THIS IS ABOUT THE WEDDING?

...AND I CAN'T TALK FOR TOO LONG.

I WAS ONLY FREE BEFORE OPENING TIME...

...

IS THERE ANY WAY WE COULD CONVINCE YOU?

...

...

SORRY, BUT I CAN'T MAKE IT.

AH...

IF THERE ARE PREPARA-TIONS TO BE DONE, WE'LL HIRE HELP.

THE CEREMONY'S DURING THE DAY, AND WE'LL FINISH BEFORE OPENING TIME.

WELL, THERE'S THE PUB...

THERE'S STILL JUST ENOUGH TIME.

WE'LL PREPARE SOME-THING.

BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WEAR.

...ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS ANYMORE.

I DON'T WANT...

MAYBE, BUT...

...

IT'S JUST...

...I'M NOT REALLY HER—

...IT'S...

IT'S OKAY, TSUBAKI-SAN.

LET'S JUST-

I'M SORRY.

M-MOM!!

はっ GRAB

...WHEN WE HAD THAT FIGHT, I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T WANT YOU AT MY WEDDING...?

UH...

I...IS IT BECAUSE...

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU AS A MOTHER.

ALL I CARED ABOUT WAS MYSELF.

W...

WELL, IT'S LIKE...

I GUESS...

I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT.

I'M SOME-THING THE WEDDING DOESN'T NEED.

SEE,

LIKE THIS LEAF.

...A "SAKURA*" SWEET.

...IT'S THIS LEAF THAT MAKES *KUZU-ZAKURA*...

BUT...

*The Japanese cherry

...WE MADE SWEETS FOR A WEDDING FAVOR,

AND NAO-SAN CHOSE A *HAZAKURA* MOTIF...

SAKURA LEAVES.

HAZAKURA...

...TO SYMBOLIZE LASTING HAPPINESS IN EVERY-DAY LIFE.

THE FIRST TIME I MET NAO-SAN...

...AND I...

...ONLY EVER THOUGHT OF THEM AS ENEMIES.

MY FAMILY IS COMPLI-CATED...

AT THE TIME, THAT HAD NEVER EVEN OCCURRED TO ME.

THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT NAO-SAN WAS SPECIAL...

IT'S THE SAME WITH SWEETS.

...FOR FINDING THAT KIND OF MEANING IN *HAZAKURA*.

NOTHING MORE.

THEY WERE TOOLS FOR PROVING MY WORTH OVER OTHERS,

...I STARTED FALLING FOR NAO.

I THINK...

...UNCONSCIOUSLY, THAT WAS WHEN...

NAO IS WHO SHE IS BECAUSE YOU RAISED HER...

...AND I REALLY HOPE YOU'LL COME SEE HER ON HER IMPORTANT DAY.

PLEASE.

TSUBAKI DIDN'T COME HERE...

...OUT OF FORMALITY OR FOR APPEARANCES.

HE DID THIS FOR ME...

...

TUNK

WELL, I LEFT BEHIND SOME WORK...

SO I'LL EXCUSE MYSELF HERE.

...YUKO-SAN.

I'M SORRY...

SO THAT YOU CAN HAVE SOME PRIVATE TIME TO TALK.

BUT I'LL LEAVE NAO-SAN,

SWISH SWISH

SO WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Here, have some tea first.

EVEN IF IT MEANS MORE LIES...?

REAL-LY?

DO YOU WANT ME AT THE WEDDING?

VWISH

URK...

WHA—

HEY...

I...

...

HOLD ON, ARE YOU PREGNANT?

TSUBAKI'S WORDS ARE TRUTHFUL.

THEY PROBABLY HAVE BEEN FROM THE VERY BEGINNING...

OH...

P-
PLEASE,

YUKO-
SAN.

PLEASE
DON'T TELL
TSUBAKI
YET.

YOU'RE
MARRYING
HIM,
AREN'T
YOU?

WHY...?

ISN'T
THAT A
HAPPY
THING?

THE OTHER DAY...

...WHEN I SAW THE TEST GIVE A FAINT POSITIVE...

RESULT

DONE

...I FELT JOY.

...FOR FEELING THAT WAY...

I SURPRISED MYSELF..

THAT THOUGHT...

...MADE ME MORE HAPPY THAN NERVOUS, BY A LOT.

THE THOUGHT THAT I COULD HAVE A FAMILY...

...I WAS ALWAYS ALONE.

...BUT AFTER MOMMA DIED, AND I ENTERED THE ORPHANAGE...

WHEN I SEE HER FACE IN MY MIND...

...IT LOOKS SO SAD...

WOULD SHE FORGIVE ME FOR FEELING THIS WAY...?

BUT WHAT ABOUT MOMMA?

I LIKE TSUBAKI.

PLOP ポタ

I JUST FEEL LIKE THE PERSON I CARE MOST ABOUT,

WOULDN'T WANT TO GIVE US HER BLESSING...

I'M SORRY.

I...

WAIT ...

WH- WHAT'S WRONG?

MOMMA...

AND THINKING ABOUT THAT—

TSUBAKI AND I TO GET TOGETH-ER...

I FEEL LIKE SHE WOULDN'T WANT...

I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS...

...BUT THIS PERSON ...

REALLY CARES ABOUT YOU, RIGHT?

YES...

...

THEN...

...SHE WANTS *YOU* TO BE HAPPY, I PROMISE.

IF I WERE YOUR REAL MOTHER,

I'D SAY IT FOR SURE.

"I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY."

JUST WHEN I DECIDED I WOULDN'T GET IN-VOLVED.

OH, JEEZ!

ぐしゃ

ぐしゃ

SCRUNCH SCRUNCH

HOLD IT.

YOU DRAGGED ME INTO THIS, SO YOU'D BETTER FIND HAPPINESS.

FOR THE KID'S SAKE, TOO.

...FORGIVE ME?

CAN YOU REALLY...

MOMMA...

IS SHE RIGHT?

I WAS PLANNING TO SIMPLY TELL HIM I'M PREGNANT.

BUT THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

IS IT OKAY...

...IF I FIND HAPPINESS?

CAN I STAY BY TSUBAKI'S SIDE?

I SUDDENLY MISSED YOUR FACE, TSUBAKI-SAN.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO STAY OVER.

...

YOU'RE MAKING ME THINK IT'S ABOUT TO SNOW IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER...

I'M GOING TO TRUST HIM...

...AND TELL HIM WHO I REALLY AM...

Jo Nao

Something's Wrong With Us

CHAPTER 29
Summer Night

OUT OF MY SIGHT, FOREVER.

IF "SAKURA" APPEARED NOW...

I'D HAVE HER DISAPPEAR.

WE'VE BOTH COME SO FAR...

AND HE HATES THE REAL ME AS WELL, AS HER DAUGHTER.

TSUBAKI STILL THINKS THAT MOMMA WAS THE ONE WHO KILLED HIS FATHER.

IT'S OKAY.

I'M SURE HE'LL UNDER-STAND.

THIS IS ALL GOING TO WORK OUT.

ONCE I TELL HIM WHO I AM, I'LL SHOW HIM MOMMA'S LETTER.

Dear Nao,

It wasn't me.

THEN HE'LL BELIEVE ME THAT MOMMA WAS INNOCENT.

YES.

THE *WARABI MOCHI* FROM THE TANABATA FAIR.

THEY'RE GOING TO SELL IT AT THE TOKYO OTOWA DEPARTMENT STORE STARTING TOMORROW, AND THEY WANT ME THERE ON THE FIRST DAY FROM THE MORNING.

HUH?

A BUSINESS TRIP?

I'M GOING TO GET ON THE LAST BULLET TRAIN OF THE DAY.

WHAT?

YOU MEAN TONIGHT?!

JUST YOU?!

WILL YOU BE LONELY?

H-HEY.

REMEMBER HOW WE SAID WE NEEDED TO TALK...?

CAN YOU SPARE SOME TIME BEFORE YOU GO?

A BIT OF TIME, SURE

...

OH, RIGHT...

TH...

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...

...

THERE'S SOMEWHERE I WANT TO GO BEFORE LEAVING.

THEN,

CAN YOU COME WITH ME?

RUSTLE

HII

FIRE-FLIES...?

THIS IS THE PLACE?

YES.

IT'S WORTH WEARING *YUKATA* FOR, ISN'T IT?

IT'S SO PRETTY.

DOES THIS GARDEN BELONG TO KOGETSUAN, TOO?

YEAH.

THE WEATHER'S GOING TO GET WORSE NEXT WEEK, SO I WANTED TO SEE THEM NOW.

HERE.

COME ON.

IT'S QUITE A SPECTACLE THIS TIME EVERY YEAR.

I FIGURED IT'S A GOOD PLACE TO TALK.

BA-DUMP

WOW.

I'VE NEVER SEEN REAL FIREFLIES BEFORE.

THERE'S A HAIRY CATERPILLAR THERE.

HUH?

DO YOU REALLY WANT ME TO SAY IT?

OH...

WELL, UH...

DID YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL ME?

WHAT... ABOUT YOU?

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D JUMP *THAT* MUCH.

W...

WELL...

EEEEEK!

WH-WHOA!

...IF WE GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER SLOWLY,

RATHER THAN SHARING EVERYTHING ALL AT ONCE.

I THINK IT'S OKAY...

IS THAT ALL YOU WANTED TO SAY?

WAIT.

I CAN JUST LEARN A BIT ABOUT YOU EACH DAY.

AND THAT YOU DON'T LIKE CATERPIL-LARS.

...I LEARNED THAT YOU'D NEVER SEEN REAL FIREFLIES BEFORE,

TODAY ...

WE'RE MARRIED, AND WE DON'T EVEN HAVE RINGS.

COME TO THINK OF IT...

WE'RE GOING TO BE TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME, AFTER ALL.

スSST...

OH...

WE'LL HAVE TO GET THEM BEFORE THE WEDDING.

NO, THIS ONE'S PERFECT.

AND IT WON'T GET IN THE WAY OF MAKING SWEETS.

BLINK

ﾌﾞﾙﾙﾝ

.....

THANK YOU.

THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL RING.

I CAN SEE IT GLOWING IN MY HEART FOREVER.

...I DID WANT TO TELL YOU.

THERE'S ONE THING...

NAO.

I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU.

TSUBAKI-
SAN.

I WANT TO HEAR IT IN TSUBAKI'S OWN WORDS.

MY FATHER?

YOU... LIKED HIM, RIGHT?

YOUR FATHER...

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF HIM?

CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

WHAT IS IT?

...ADMIRA-TION.

I THINK... IT WAS MORE LIKE...

...

I WANT TO BE LIKE MY FATHER.

HE WAS A STRICT MAN,

BUT HE WAS THE ONLY PERSON WHO EVER HELD ME.

AS A CHILD, I FELT PROTECTED BY HIS BIG HANDS.

I'M—

TSUBAKI-SAN.

LIS-TEN...

TSUBAKI-SAN.

I...

UM...

...

...THAT KIND OF FATHER...?

TO BE...

IT'S THAT LATE ALREADY?

THERE YOU ARE.

YOU SHOULD GET GOING, OR YOU'LL MISS THE LAST TRAIN.

SORRY.

LET'S CONTINUE WHEN I GET BACK.

S-SURE.

OUR TIME SPENT ALONE TOGETHER SEEMS TO GO BY SO FAST.

I DIDN'T GET TO TELL HIM...

IT'S GONNA BE GREAT!

WE'LL HAVE THESE WHEN WE GET HOME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WE'RE GOING TO BE TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME.

A FAMILY...

THAT'S RIGHT.

I CAN TELL HIM BIT BY BIT.

Sign: Kogetsuan

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

NAO-SAN.

...WITH TSUBAKI-SAN NOT HERE?

BUT WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO...

WELL...

...THE OLD MASTER JUST SAID THAT HE'S GOING TO HOLD HIS ANNUAL TEA CEREMONY A WEEK EARLY.

HUH ...?

YOU MEAN THE ONE HE INTIALLY SAID WOULD BE THE SAME DAY AS THE WEDDING?

YES.

DOES THAT MEAN...?

IT'S SUCH A SUDDEN DECISION.

WE'RE AT A LOSS FOR WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE SWEETS.

UM!

THAT MEANS...

...HE RECOGNIZES OUR RELATIONSHIP... **AND** TSUBAKI, RIGHT?

THE OLD MASTER CHANGED THE DAY OF THE TEA CEREMONY FOR OUR WEDDING.

LET ME MAKE THEM. PLEASE!

TSUBAKI WILL BE SO HAPPY WHEN HE HEARS.

I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL HIM.

THE LIGHT OF THE FIREFLIES THAT ILLUMINATE KOGETSUAN'S GARDEN.

I'LL MAKE IT FIREFLY JO-NAMA-GASHI.

EXCUSE ME.

UM, CAN YOU SPARE A MOMENT?

NAO-SAN.

KATUNK

KLUNK

KLUNK

TUNK

SST...

YOUR WINDOW?

YES. I CAN'T GET IT TO CLOSE AGAIN.

HUH.

SO THERE REALLY IS A TRICK TO IT.

TRY PUSHING A BIT THEN LIFTING UP. THAT SHOULD WORK.

WHOA!

AWESOME, I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU.

THANK YOU, THAT'S A HUGE HELP!

はっ GASP

OH.

LET ME MAKE YOU SOME TEA TO THANK YOU.

WHAT ?!

THAT'S OKAY.

I GOT SOME NICE TEA FROM A CUSTOMER.

I'LL GET THE TABLE OUT.

IT'S ROOIBOS TEA.

I CAN DRINK THIS.

There's no caffeine, right?

THANKS.

THE CATTER TWINS

TUK

トクン…

JOJIMA.

OH, SURE.

I'M SORRY, BUT CAN I SEND YOU ON AN ERRAND?

光月

I'M GONNA HEAD OUT FOR A BIT, BUT FEEL FREE TO STAY AS LONG AS YOU WANT, NAO-SAN.

IS THERE SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THAT ROOM?

BEATS ME.

BUT NAO-SAN SEEMS TO HAVE SOMETHING SHE WANTS TO CHECK OUT IN THERE.

SO I'M GOING TO LET HER LOOK AROUND FOR A BIT.

YES.

WAS THAT WHAT YOU WANTED?

THANK YOU, YAMAGUCHI-SAN.

ONCE AGAIN...

I GET TO BE HERE...

IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO...

HERE IT IS.

OH.

...

IF IT'S AN ERRAND, HE WON'T BE BACK YET.

JUST A PEEK...

THIS IS SO NOSTAL-GIC.

THE CLOSET I SECRETLY USED TO SLEEP IN.

MOMMA CARVED MY HEIGHT IN HERE.

I WAS THIS SMALL, HUH?

I CAN'T BELIEVE I FIT IN HERE.

WOW!

IT'S TINY.

MOMMA WOULD SCOLD ME FOR BEING IN HERE...

...AND I ALWAYS HID QUIETLY SO I WOULDN'T GET CAUGHT...

CLEAK

KNOCK

KNOCK

KNOCK

...

WHAT IS THAT?

THAT SECTION HAS A DIFFERENT COLOR.

WHAM

WHAM

WHAM

WHAM

TUG

KRIK

KRIK

...

...!

CLATTER

CLATTER

CLATTER

A STATIO-NERY BOX?

ぱっ
WHAP
WHAP
ぱっ

SAKURA-SHAPED CUTTERS?

THIS IS...

MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH HANDBOOK

...AN UMBILICAL CORD STUMP?

AND A MATERNITY HAND-BOOK.

MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH HANDBOOK

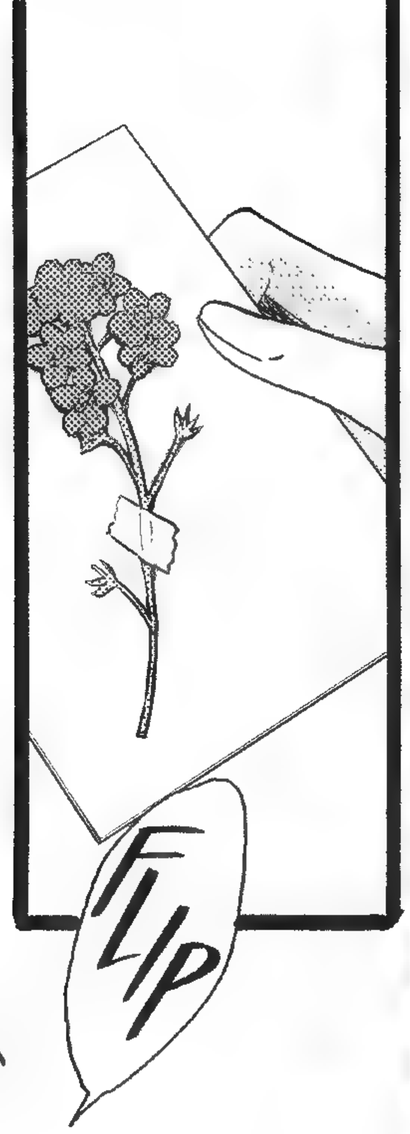
Okura

920-XX

Itsuki Takatsuki

O-OOO OO
Town, Kanazawa City,
Ishikawa Prefecture
920-XX

I found a beautiful flower I wanted to send you, my love.



RUSTLE

LIKE IF I OPEN IT...

I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU.

...IT WILL DESTROY EVERY-THING...

CHAPTER 30
The Truth

THANK YOU FOR COMING SO EARLY IN THE MORNING.

I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO BE OF USE.

...

WAIT UP, KO-KUN!

Hurry up!

...

IS SOME-THING WRONG?

NO.

NOTHING LIKE THAT.

A CHILD-HOOD FRIEND?

HOW SWEET.

SHE LOOKED A BIT LIKE SOMEONE I KNEW AS A CHILD.

RUSTLE

DNA Paternity Test Results

Documen

Child
Nao Okura
1996/4/3
2002/0/0

Alleged Father
Itsuki Takatsuki
1972/12/7
2002/0/0

Combined Paternity Index:
Probability of Paternity:

testing results, the
is 99.99999
an extremely high
father, Itsu
iological fa

A Pate
Child
Nao Okura
1996/4/3
2002/O/O
Allele Sizes
15 17
16.3 18.3
Combined Pa
Probability

KA-
BA-DUMP

KA-
BA-DUMP

KA-
BA-DUMP

Based on testing results, the probability of paternity is 99.99999996%.
There is an extremely high probability that the alleged father, Itsuki Takatsuki, is the biological father of the child, Nao Okura.

RUSTLE
RUSTLE

Yuuto Okura-sama
Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture

WH...

WHAT...
IS THIS...?

PUSTLE パラ…

Yuriko Okura
Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture

Yuriko Okura-sama,
Not a day goes by that
I don't think about you.
When will I see
you again next?

I love you.
Just the same as ever.

One day,
we'll be together.
I hope you'll wait
for me until then.

IT...

...ALWAYS FELT LIKE I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO ASK ABOUT MY DAD.

AND I HAVE SWEETS.

NO, I HAVE YOU, MOMMA.

DO YOU WANT A DADDY, NAO?

THE YOUNG MASTER...

THAT MAN...

HE'S MY—

DNA Paternity Test Results

ANOTHER ONE...?

Document Date: 200

	Child	Alleged Father
	Tsubaki Takatsuki	Itsuki Takatsuki
	1996/5/2	1972/12/7
	2002/0/0	2002/0/0
	Allele Sizes	Allele Sizes
	15 16	16 17

aternity Index: 0

y of Paternity: 0%

Based on testing results, the probability of paternity is 0%.
The alleged father, Itsuki Takatsuki, is excluded as the biological father of the child, Tsubaki Takatsuki.

N...

...NO...

TSUBAKI...

...ISN'T THE YOUNG MASTER'S REAL SON...

For Nao

For

...PLAN TO GIVE THIS TO ME SOMEDAY?

DID MOMMA...

TO GIVE ME PROTECTION...?

...I COULD PROVE THAT **I** BELONGED TO KOGETSUAN, NOT TSUBAKI?

SO THAT IF SOMETHING EVER HAPPENED TO ME...

WHAT DO I DO...?

GASP

はっ

CLATTER

ｶﾀﾝ

TUNK

WHAT DO I DO?

CLATTER

ｶﾀﾝ

WHAT DO I DO?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I'M SORRY. I...I GOT LOST...

I...

WHY DID I HAVE TO RUN INTO HIM...?

SST...

TSUBAKI'S ROOM IS UP AHEAD TO THE LEFT.

OH...

THE OLD MASTER...

I DOUBTED YOU'D LAST A MONTH IN THIS HOUSE.

IT'S ASTONISH-ING.

YOU REALLY LOVE TSUBAKI THAT MUCH?

THE WEDDING PREPARA-TIONS SEEM TO BE GOING SMOOTHLY.

WHAT?

GASP

YOU'RE STILL HERE.

"DO YOU KNOW?"

MARRYING TSUBAKI KNOWING THIS?

NAO-SAN, WAS IT?

"BECAUSE HE'S NOT MY ACTUAL GRANDSON."

"TSUBAKI CAN'T INHERIT KOGETSU-AN."

PLEASE.

TELL ME THAT'S WHY...

UM...!

THAT'S WHY YOU PRIORITIZED THE WEDDING OVER YOUR TEA CEREMONY...?

OLD MASTER, YOU'VE DECIDED TO ACKNOWLEDGE TSUBAKI-SAN, HAVEN'T YOU?

...THE THING I FEAR MOST OF ALL?

DO YOU KNOW...

THIS SHOP ISN'T JUST ANY SHOP.

IT'S A CULTURAL TREASURE REFINED OVER MANY LONG YEARS.

CLIP

IT'S THE POSSIBILITY OF KOGETSUAN DYING OUT WITH ME.

IF I LET MY ANCESTORS' EFFORTS DIE OUT WITH ME...

TIME AND TIME AGAIN IN ITS LONG HISTORY, IT WAS NEARLY RUINED AMIDST DISASTERS, CHANGES IN THE TIMES, AND BETRAYAL...

BUT EACH TIME, THEY SPILLED BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS TO KEEP KOGETSUAN GOING.

EVER SINCE THE WARRING ERAS, MY ANCESTORS RISKED THEIR LIVES TO MAKE CONFECTIONS.

庵月光

Sign: Kogetsuan

AS FAR AS THE PUBLIC IS CONCERNED,

TSUBAKI *IS* THE HEIR.

ONLY THOSE OF THE TRUE BLOODLINE...

...CAN INHERIT KOGETSUAN.

...MY SOUL WOULD ***NEVER*** REST IN PEACE!

FOR NOW...

I'LL GRAB IT!

!

FOR NOW...

...!

COUGH

COUGH

COUGH

COUGH

OLD MASTER ?!

MAYBE YOU...

...WOULD HAVE HEARD SOMETHING.

I'M LOOKING FOR A CERTAIN GIRL.

THE DAUGHTER OF THE WOMAN MY SON ONCE LOVED.

SHE LIVED HERE FOR A WHILE, 15 YEARS AGO...

I'VE TOLD TSUBAKI TO LOOK FOR HER...

SHE WAS CALLED "SAKURA."

I'M SURE ***SHE'S*** THE REAL CHILD.

HAS...

HAS TSUBAKI EVER...?

BY THE TIME I REALIZED, I HAD NO IDEA WHERE SHE WAS.

I...

I DON'T KNOW!

I MUST BE GETTING SENILE.

...OF COURSE NOT.

I HAVE NO IDEA...

OH...

NO.

I DON'T NEED HELP.

TSUBAKI REALLY DID...

...SEE THEM THAT DAY.

AND HE REALIZED...

...EVEN AS A CHILD...

FWMP ぷたん…

TSUBAKI...

...THAT HE...

...WASN'T HIS FATHER'S REAL SON, AFTER ALL.

TSUBAKI DOESN'T HATE SAKURA...

A FAINT STRAND OF HOPE KEPT HIM GOING SOMEHOW...

HE MUST HAVE FELT SO SCARED...

...BUT...

...BECAUSE SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE WOMAN WHO MURDERED HIS FATHER.

...IF SAKURA EVER APPEARED AGAIN...

...SO ALONE.

I WON'T LET ANYONE ELSE HAVE THESE.

...TO TAKING OVER THE SHOP.

I'LL DEVOTE THIS LIFE...

WHAT DO I DO?

I'M DROWNING IN RED, AND I CAN'T SEE A THING.

MORNING ALREADY...

DRIZZLE しと

DRIZZLE しと

IT'S ALL TOO MUCH...

...FEELS SO DIZZY.

MY HEAD...

YAMAGUCHI-SAN WANTED TO SEE SOME SAMPLES.

THAT'S RIGHT.

I HAVE TO MAKE SWEETS FOR THE TEA CEREMONY.

WE'RE GOING TO BE...

...TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME, AFTER ALL.

スSSTooo

...ABOUT THE OLD MASTER'S TEA CEREMONY...

ACTUALLY...

WELCOME BACK, TSUBAKI-SAN.

I'M SORRY I'M LATE.

DID ANYTHING HAPPEN WHILE I WAS GONE?

I JUST TOOK HIM THE SWEET FOR THE TEA CEREMONY THAT NAO-SAN MADE.

YES.

HE'S CHANGING THE DATE?

YOU'RE GOING TO ATTEND OUR WEDDING?

ALL I WANT...

...IS TO TAKE OVER THE SHOP MY FATHER WAS SUPPOSED TO INHERIT.

...

IT MUST BE SO SATISFYING TO SEE ME CONCEDE.

I'LL DIE SOON ENOUGH.

DON'T WORRY.

SSSF

EXCUSE ME.

...

DID YOU MAKE THIS, TSUBAKI?

THIS SWEET...

A GIRL NAMED SAKURA DID...

SHE'S MY FRIEND.

NO, GRAND-FATHER.

THIS TASTE...

IS THAT SO...

THIS *JO-NAMA-GASHI.*

WHO MADE IT?

WAIT.

I THINK I REMEMBER IT FROM SOME-WHERE...

...LONG AGO...

"THOSE WHO LIE WILL GO TO HELL."

"A CUS-
TOMER"?

...BUT I'M
THE ONE
WHO CHOSE
THIS PATH.

YES?

MA'AM.

WE
HAVE A
CUSTOM-
ER.

THERE
WERE SO
MANY
FORKS
IN THE
ROAD...

...

HI.

WELCOME
HOME,
TSUBAKI-
SAN.

LET ME HELP.

GOOD THING THE RAIN LET UP.

YEAH.

IT WAS DRIZZLING ALL DAY.

...

OKAY.

I DON'T WANT HIM TO SUFFER.

I CAN'T HIDE THAT I'M PREGNANT.

BUT I CAN'T TELL HIM WHO I AM.

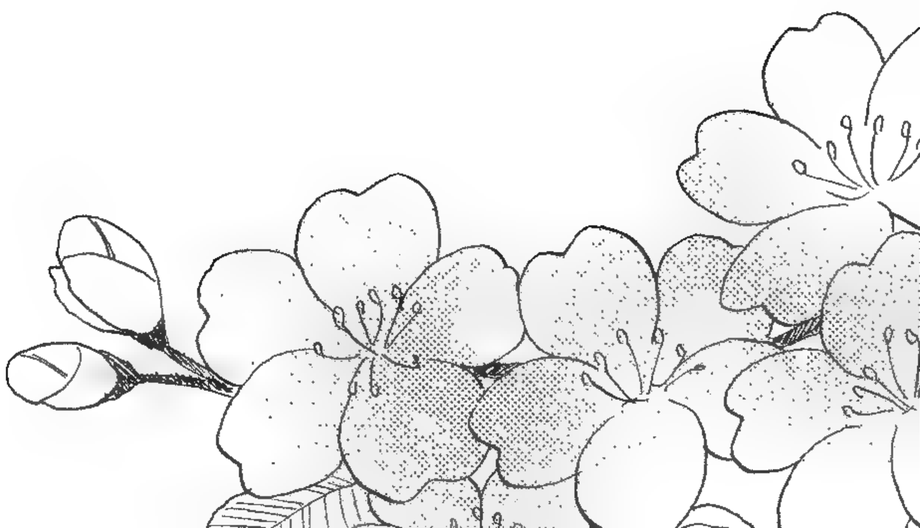
OUT OF HIS SIGHT, FOREVER...

SO I HAVE TO DISAPPEAR.

To be continued in Volume 7.

Something's Wrong With Us

Watermelon



I DON'T REMEMBER WHO TOLD ME THAT,

BUT I TREATED IT LIKE A PROMISE I WAS NEVER EVER SUPPOSED TO BREAK.

"YOU SHOULD HELP YOUR MOM OUT BY EATING EVERYTHING AND NOT BEING PICKY."

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?

WOW!

YOU SURE DREW A LOT!

SAKURA WAS DRAWING ME PICTURES OF THE SWEETS SHE WANTS TO MAKE.

PAUSE
ピタ

I'LL CUT IT UP FOR YOU.

BY THE WAY, I GOT A BIG WATERMELON FROM A CUSTOMER.

WHAT'S WRONG?

SAKURA?

I WON'T TELL ANYONE.

YOU CAN SAY IT.

...

UH-UH. NOTH-ING...

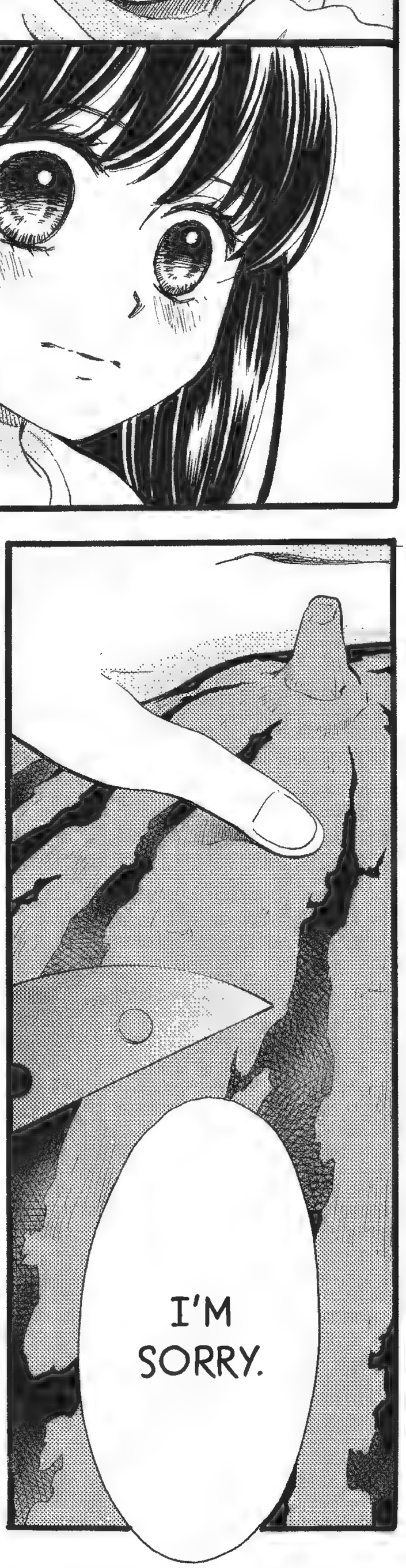
BUT ...

YOU'RE DRAWING IN CIRCLES.

OOPS...

WELL...

I ACTUALLY DON'T REALLY LIKE WATER-MELON.
WOULD IT BE OKAY IF WE PASS ON IT TODAY?


I'M SORRY.

WHAT ABOUT IT?

REALLY ?!

AND IT TASTES LIKE CUCUM-BER.

IT'S HARD TO EAT WITHOUT GETTING MY HANDS STICKY,

I KNOW!

!

THEN WE HEAT IT ON THE STOVE WITH SOME *KANTEN*...

...AND BLEND IT.

...AND DISSOLVE SOME GRANU-LATED SUGAR AND WHITE BEAN PASTE INTO IT.

WE'LL CUT THE RED PART INTO BITS...

"Kanten" = Agar, a coagulant.

WATER-
MELON
YOKAN!!

IT'S SOOOO GOOD!

IS *THIS* OKAY TO EAT?

BECAUSE *YOU* DECIDED TO TELL ME, SAKURA!

WE GOT TO EAT SUCH A YUMMY TREAT...

I DON'T ACTUALLY LIKE WATER-MELON.

THANKS.

KOFF

KOFF

YOU MUST BE DISAP-POINTED, NAO.

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO GO SEE FIRE-WORKS WITH TSUBAKI-KUN TONIGHT.

IT'S OKA—

UH-UH.

...

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME...

...I EVER THOUGHT WATERMELON WAS SWEET.

OKAY.

THEN I'LL GO BUY SOME FIREWORKS, AND WE'LL SET THEM OFF WHEN YOUR COLD'S ALL BETTER!

YEAH!

I REALLY WANTED TO GO!!

YEAH.

I want to be like Tsubaki.

THANK YOU SO MUCH,

UMESAKURA-SAMA
DOI-SAMA
NAGANAWA-SAMA
MIYAJI-SAMA
MORIZANE-SAMA

MY EDITOR CHIKADA-SAMA

I LOVE SUMMER MORE THAN ANY OTHER TIME OF THE YEAR, SO IT WAS NICE GETTING TO DRAW LOTS OF SUMMER ITEMS IN THIS VOLUME.
I HAD NEVER SEEN REAL FIREFLIES BEFORE AND WAS WISHING I COULD SEE SOME SOMEDAY... WHEN MY FAMILY TOLD ME I ACTUALLY USED TO KEEP SOME AT HOME AS A KID! I DON'T REMEMBER THIS AT ALL...

Hope to see you again in Volume 7

I'M ON TWITTER ♪
HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/NATUMIANDO

Translation Notes

warabi mochi, page 2
A jelly-like dessert made with starch from the *warabi* fern, usually enjoyed in the summer with *kinako* (soybean powder) and *kuromitsu* (black sugar syrup).

Tanabata, page 14
Also known as the Star Festival, this festival is held around July based on the legend of Otohime (Vega) and Hikoboshi (Altair), two celestial lovers separated by the Milky Way who are only allowed to meet once a year. On the day, people make wishes by writing them on slips of paper to be hung on bamboo. This can be seen on page 157, where little Nao's wish hangs in the window.

monaka, page 36
Two crispy wafers made of rice flour with a sweet filling (usually bean paste) sandwiched in between.

jo-namagashi, page 36
Fresh, artistic *wagashi* that are made with specific (usually seasonal) motifs. Each creation is given an appropriate name to suit the motif.

yukata, page 40
A more casual version of the *kimono*. *Yukata* were originally airy, unlined robes meant to be worn after a bath, but have also become fashionable, easy-to-wear alternatives to formal kimono in modern times for summer festivals.

kinako, page 45
Roasted soybean ground into a powder that has a distinct nutty flavor.

shiromuku, page 62
A special bridal kimono with a concealing headdress that is completely white.

kaiken, suehiro, and *hakoseko*, page 64
The *kaiken* is a small ceremonial dagger, the *suehiro* is a folding fan, and the *hakoseko* is a small decorative purse. All of these were accessories that samurai-class women wore with formal kimono, and are now used primarily in weddings.

kuzuzakura, page 74
A jelly-like dessert for the summer made with *kuzu* (arrowroot) starch. It has a smooth bean-paste filling and is wrapped in a green sakura leaf. Unlike some other *wagashi,* the leaf isn't salted and is not meant to be eaten.

hazakura, page 78
The sakura with new leaves coming in as the petals fall.

Mother and Child Health Handbook, page 118
A maternity handbook issued by the Japanese government, where all official medical and developmental records of the pregnancy and the first few years of the child's life are kept. It also has space to write down memories and thoughts, and offers information on maternity and child-raising resources, etc.

yokan, page 153
A smooth, jellied sweet made of bean paste and agar.

Something's Wrong With Us 6

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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